

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

REGULATIONS FOR WRITTEN BIDDING AND BIDDING BOXES

(For use at the 2007 Summer Festival of Bridge)

A. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Written bidding or bidding boxes are used in all Australian Bridge Federation Tournaments. However when the Chief Tournament Director (CTD) believes that the circumstances warrant it, alternative bidding procedures for one or more tables or for all competitors may be instituted.

2.1 In accordance with Law 7A the board in play must remain on the table until play is completed.

3.1 Players must decide their call before commencing to write or to touch the bidding box. Any vacillation among calls may convey unauthorised information and restrict partner's actions according to Law 73C.

4.1 The Laws concerning correct procedure in the auction, irregularities in the auction and the proprieties apply *mutatis mutandi* to written bidding and bidding boxes.

B. WRITTEN BIDDING

5.1 The written bidding record sheet ("bidding slip") to be used is as determined by the CTD.

5.2 When the CTD determines that play and score records are required, the recorder (or dummy in the absence of a recorder) records the cards played and South (or the recorder) enters the score which is then checked and initialled by West.

6.1 It is not mandatory to mark the dealer and vulnerability on the written bidding record sheet unless screens are in operation, when the players must mark the sheet even if a recorder is present.

6.2 When a player elects to mark the written bidding record sheet, a circle at the appropriate compass position designates the Dealer and a single or double line through N & S and/or E & W denotes the vulnerability.

6.3 The Director may apply a procedural penalty to a player who marks the written bidding sheet incorrectly. Nevertheless, it is the responsibility of all players to know and to use the dealer and vulnerability marked on the board: players who take action based on a written bidding sheet that is marked incorrectly have no recourse.

7.1 A call is not made until the player has written the appropriate numeral, if necessary, with the appropriate symbol. Each call should be written in the next vacant box working from left to right of that player's segment of the bidding slip. The symbols are:

C for clubs

D for diamonds

H for hearts

S for spades

NT for no trumps

The numerals **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7**

/ for pass

Either **/** or **//** for the concluding pass of the auction

X for double

XX for redouble

7.2 Calls must be made in a consistent manner without any emphasis or additional notations such as full stops.

8.1 The written bidding sheet remains in view until the third player (partner of the opening leader) has played to the first trick when it should be removed (or turned over) by dummy. If dummy omits to do this then another player may remove the bidding sheet.

8.2 The stationary pair, or NS if both pairs are moving, must ensure that used bidding slips are not available to players who have yet to play that board.

C. BIDDING BOXES

9.1 A call is made by the player selecting the appropriate cards from the bidding box and placing them on the table (no screens) or on the bidding tray (with screens). Players should not touch any bidding cards before they have determined their call. (Law 73F2 may apply and also, when there are no screens, Law 16A).

9.2 The first call by each player is made by placing the appropriate bidding cards on the table in front of the player. The cards must be orientated to face partner. When bidding trays are used, the cards are placed at the extreme edge of the player's segment of the tray. Subsequent calls should overlap neatly and evenly so that every call in the sequence remains visible, with the unused bidding cards hidden underneath.

9.3 Alerts are made by saying, "Alert" audibly and placing the alert card across the bidding card designating the alertable call. The alerted player must acknowledge the alert by returning the alert card to his opponent before calling.

10.1 A call is considered made when a bidding card is removed from the bidding box with apparent intent.

10.2 A call selected may be changed without penalty if it is determined by the Director that it

- is a call selected inadvertently *or*
- has not passed the screen *and* the Director consents to the change.

10.3 A call may be changed in accordance with Law 25 but the change may be subject to the penalty provisions of that Law.

11.1 At the conclusion of the auction there is a short period for the players to review it; then the players restore the bidding cards to their boxes

- (without screens) after a legal opening lead is faced *or*
- (with screens) before the opening lead is made.

11.2 Until they are removed from the table, a player can review the auction by inspecting the bidding cards. When such inspection is no longer feasible a player may obtain a review of the auction from an opponent at his first turn to play to trick one. (Law 20)